

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listings of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic business transaction service method for conducting a business transaction over a computer network and sending a business transaction document in a preferred communication format of a recipient party , comprising:

creating on a first computer an electronic business transaction document to be directed to a plurality of recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document including a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being directed to at least one recipient party in a computer communication format and to at least one other recipient party in a non-computer communication format;

transmitting the electronic business transaction document over the computer network to a network-connected transaction service server computer;

determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets ~~determines~~ the preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a recipient party is a computer communication format, sending the electronic business

transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format; and

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a user preferred non-computer communication format, wherein the user preferred non-computer communication format can be telephonic facsimile or regular mail.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 in which the preferred communication format includes telephonic facsimile.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the preferred communication format includes regular mail, further comprising printing the electronic business transaction document as a printed copy, and mailing the printed copy of the electronic business transaction document to a recipient party.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising storing in an electronic address book associated with the business management software program address information for each party and the preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction indicating the one of the computer and non-computer communication formats in which to transmit communications to the party.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 4 wherein adding a recipient party to the electronic business transaction document automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format indicator.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 in which the business management software program is capable of automatically populating and extracting information from the electronic business transaction document, the method further including transmitting a business management software component or access to the business management software component with the electronic business transaction document in the computer format to the at least one recipient party, if it is determined that the at least one recipient party is not capable of viewing the electronic business transaction document, the business management software component not being capable of automatically populating and extracting information from electronic business transaction documents.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1 in which the electronic business transaction document includes a markup language computer file.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8 in which the markup language computer file includes Extensible Markup Language.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1 in which the business transaction relates to a construction project.

Claim 11-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): In computer readable media, electronic business transaction service software for conducting a business transaction over a computer network and sending a business transaction document in a preferred communication format of a recipient party, comprising:

software for creating on a first computer an electronic business transaction document to be directed to a plurality of recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document including a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the electronic business transaction

document being directed to at least one recipient party in a computer communication format and to at least one other recipient party in a non-computer communication format;

software for transmitting the electronic business transaction document over the computer network to a network-connected transaction service server computer;

software for determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets ~~determines~~ the preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

software for sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a recipient party is a computer communication format; and

software for sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a non-computer communication format if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, wherein the non-computer communication format can be telephonic facsimile or regular mail.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The media of claim 14 further software for storing in an electronic address book associated with the business management software program address information for each party and the preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction indicating the one of the computer and non-computer communication formats in which to transmit communications to the party.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The media of claim 15 wherein adding a recipient party to the electronic business transaction document automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format indicator.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The media of claim 14 further comprising software for charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.

Claim 18 (original): The media of claim 14 in which the business transaction relates to a construction project.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An electronic business transaction service method for conducting a business transaction over a computer network, comprising:

receiving from a client computer an electronic business transaction document that is compatible with a business management software program, the electronic business transaction document being directed in one or more communication formats to plural recipient parties to a business transaction, the electronic business transaction document being created by a business management software program in the client computer, the electronic business transaction document including address information and a preferred communication format indicator for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the address information and the preferred communication format being automatically retrieved from an electronic address book stored at the client computer, wherein the electronic business transaction document is received by a transaction service server computer communicating with the client computer through a computer network;

determining at the transaction service server computer a preferred communication format for each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction, the preferred business transaction document communication format being determined by an electronic business management software residing at the transaction service server computer that interprets the

preferred communication format indicator of each of the plurality of recipient parties of the business transaction;

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred business transaction document communication format of a party is a computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a first recipient party using a computer communication format; and

if the transaction service server computer determines that the preferred business transaction document communication format of a party is a non-computer communication format, sending the electronic business transaction document from the transaction service server computer to a second recipient party using a non-computer communication format.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19 in which one of the preferred communication formats includes telephonic facsimile.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21 wherein adding a recipient party to the electronic business transaction document automatically associates with the recipient party the preferred communication format indicator.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22 further comprising manually changing the preferred communication format automatically associated with the recipient party prior to sending the electronic business transaction document to the recipient party.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 19 further comprising charging a fee for each recipient party to which the electronic business transaction document is sent from the transaction service server computer.